(c) the reasons for the abnormal delay in completion of construction work;

(d) whether there is also a demand for an additional radio channel for Vijayawada Radio Station;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The foundation stone of the studio centre at Vijayawada was laid in January, 1990. While the construction of building is in progress, technical areas are nearing completion.

(c) Though the scheme was included in the VII Plan, the scope of the scheme had to be reviewed due to resource constraint, thereby, delaying implementation of the project.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Though there is a demand for setting up of Second Radio Channel (Regional) at Vijaywada, there is no programme imperative to justify the Channel at Vijayawada. Therefore, at present, there is no proposal for setting up of a Second Radio Channel there.

Facilities in Vanchinadu and Vainadu Express Trains

1499. SHRI P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a number of complaints about the inadequate facilities in the Vanchinadu and Vainadu Express trains running in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No complaint has been received in respect of 6303/6304 Vanchinadu Express but one complaint has been received in connection with 6301/6302 Vainadu Express in June'97.

(b) The complaint received in respect of Vainadu Express was about non-availability of first class chair car coach.

(c) Vainadu Express was converted from vaccum brake system to air brake system and the number of coaches was increased to 21. On account of non-availability of air brake type Ist class chair car coach, this facility could not be provided. Action has been taken to convert one vaccum brake Ist class chair car to air brake type which will be provided on this train shortly.

[Translation]

Post Office in Loni

1500. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is only one post office in Loni, Ghaziabad;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to open sub-post offices there is proportion to its population;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which sub-post Offices are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) At present no such concrete proposal has been formulated. Post Offices are opened subject to fulfilment of norm based justification and availability of targets and resources. During the Annual Plan 1997-98, a target of opening 6 Departmental Sub-Post Offices in the State of Uttar Pradesh has been fixed.

Appointment of General Managers

1501. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any criteria or rules for the appointment of General Managers in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these rules and criteria are being complied with;

(d) the number of posts of General Managers are lying vacant in Railways at present; and

(e) the time by which these vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The procedure and guidelines for appointment of GMs and equivalent are contained in the Government of India's Resolution No. E(O) III 84/PM/6/132 dated 16.07.86 as amended vide Resolutions dated 30.01.87 and 26.02.88. These Resolutions are published and notified in the Gazette of India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) At present eight posts of General Managers and equivalent are lying vacant, which are being looked after by local arrangements. The process of filling up these posts on regular basis has already been initiated and the posts are likely to be filled up in the near future, depending upon the clearance from the competent authorities.